

TO: Health and Medicine Policy Research Group

FROM: Phil Milsik, Governmental Affairs Consultant,  
Illinois Association of School Social Workers

SUBJECT: Comments on Section 1115 Draft Application

DATE: January 22, 2014

The Illinois Association of School Social Workers (IASSW) is primarily concerned with the coverage of school-based services. We strongly recommend that the proposed waiver not diminish in any way the coverage of services to students under Medicaid that is currently in place. In addition, any opportunities to expand covered school-based services should be explored.

We are also interested in how the proposed waiver will address the availability of community-based behavioral health services for children and youth. There is a severe shortage of such services in many areas of Illinois, especially outside of major metropolitan areas. The availability of these services is vital to the academic success and social and emotional development of students. The waiver should describe in greater detail how such services will be funded and delivered in regions where there are shortages. The waiver should, for example, allow licensed clinical social workers to qualify for payment for behavioral healthcare services provided to Medicaid-eligible clients.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cc: Tom Tebbe, President, IASSW